(d) if no such action has been taken in the matter the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Central universities and their colleges in Delhi had been pleading for exemption from payment of property tax to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on the grounds that they were fully funded by the Central Government, through University Grants Commission (UGC), and their lands and buildings were used for a charitable purpose, namely education. As their pleas have not yet been admitted to by the MCD, they have since started making payment of the property tax. The UGC, on its part, has already communicated its decision that the universities/institutions maintained by the UGC would be reimbursed the actual expenditure incurred on payment of property tax.

Opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas

†1384. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 18 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 25th July, 2005 and state:

(a) the number of new Kendriya Vidyalayas decided to be opened by Government alongwith their locations;

(b) the action taken so far to obtain the approval of Planning Commission and for the assessment of funds required for new Kendriya Vidyalayas and the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government during the last six months for the development and improvement in the quality of Kendriya Vidyalayas alongwith the improvement in their infrastructural structure and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Government has not taken any final decision on opening of new Kendriya Vidyalayas.

(c) Some of the steps taken by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) for improvement of quality and infrastructure are:

(i) 32 in-service courses/workshops have been organized for teachers and Principals with a view to improve curricular and transactional competence.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Nine school buildings have been completed.

(iii) Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan is implementing Adolescent Education Programme which includes life skill training.

(iv) Computer-aided teaching has been imparted in several schools.

Financial assistance for computer education in Kerala

1385. SHRI N.K.PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Kerala to extend financial assistance towards the computer education plan as a part of IT at School projects;

(b) whether Government have discontinued the scheme "Computer Literacy and Studies is Schools" intending to extend computer education in schools and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would consider to extend financial assistance to the Government of Kerala for IT at schools?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The Department of Secondary and Higher Education has launched the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) @ Schools Scheme in December, 2004 by merging the revised Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS) Scheme and the Educational Technology (ET) Scheme, to promote computer literacy in Government and Government aided Secondary and Senior Secondary schools in the country.

During 2005-2006, an amount of Rs. 625.00 lakh has been sanctioned to the Government of Kerala for imparting Computer Education in 125 schools.

Cooking cost for mid-day meal

† 1386. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one rupee per sutdent is being paid for preparing the mid-day meal being served to students in schools;

(b) whether this results in low quality; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve the quality of mid-day meal?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.